

**SUMMARY OF 3RD REGIONAL PLANNING OFFICIALS
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan Update**

Meeting Time and Location

The third Regional Planning Officials (RPO) Advisory Council meeting for the *Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan Update* was held at the Marriott Hotel in Baton Rouge on October 9, 2002 from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

Meeting Attendees

The following persons attended the meeting:

Advisory Council Members/Representatives

J. Kent Rogers, NLCOG
Doug Mitchell, North Delta/OCOG
James Porter, IMCAL
Jimmy Williams, Kisatchie-Delta Economic Development District
Roy Schmidt, LDOTD
Bob Roth, LDOTD
Don Tolar, LDOTD
Wayne Marchand, LDOTD
James Forrest, LDOTD
John E. Evanco, LDOTD
Walter Brooks, Regional Planning Director, New Orleans
Bruce Easterly, LDOTD
Ken Perret, LDOTD
Mike Hollier, Lafayette Consolidated Government
Bill Fontenot, LDOTD
Kevin Ghirardi, SOPDC
Kevin Belanger, South Central Planning
Jim Harvey, RPC, New Orleans
Huey P. Dugas, CRPC

Non-Member DOTD Staff

Eric Kalivoda
Dan Broussard
Tom Bartkiewicz

Consultant Team Members

Tom Cooney, WSA
Chris Chritton, WSA
Bob Schmidt, HNTB

Others

Abe Fontenot, IMCAL
Robin Romeo, LADOTD
Harold LaBorde, Jr., Coordinating & Development Corp.
Dan Magri, LADOTD
Steve Jiles, LADOTD

Meeting Purpose

The primary purpose of this meeting was to review the preliminary evaluation results of the proposed Mega Projects and to develop preliminary highway related recommendations to be presented to and considered by the Intermodal Advisory Council and ultimately the LIIEP Commission.

The following presentations and items were discussed during the meeting:

- Statewide Travel Demand Model and Future Travel Demand Forecasts on the Existing Highway System plus Committed Improvements (TIMED highway projects assumed as committed/programmed improvements) – *Tom Cooney, Wilbur Smith Associates.*
- Overview and Preliminary Evaluation Results of Mega Projects – *Butch Babineaux, Wilbur Smith Associates.*
- Overview of Financial Analysis for Statewide Plan Update – *Bob Schmidt, HNTB Corporation.*
- Overview of LDOTD Needs Analysis: Pavement – *Said Ismail*; Bridge – *Robin Romeo*; and Safety – *Dan Magri, with LDOTD.*
- Overview of Current LDOTD Budget – *Dr. Eric Kalivoda, LDOTD.*
- Recommended Mega Projects by Various Funding Scenarios – *Dr. Eric Kalivoda, LDOTD.*
- Discussion of Other Highway Related Issues/Recommendations including State Access Management Policy, State Traffic Impact Analysis Policy, Rural Planning Organizations and Local Option Gas Tax.

Summary of Meeting Comments/Recommendations

Advisory Council members agreed on the following preliminary funding scenarios as initial assumptions to select and prioritize Mega Highway improvements.

- **Existing Budget Scenario** – includes existing highway improvement revenues with no additional funding sources through year 2030. Assumes \$85 million per year of the current \$120 million per year of the Capacity category revenues will be used for the extensive highway preservation needs throughout the State, after implementation of Capacity improvement projects already programmed and in the system through approximately year 2010. This funding scenario focuses on maintaining and improving the existing highway system and does not allow implementation of **any** Mega Projects, and only \$35 million per year (\$25 million for construction + \$10 million for engr./r.o.w./util.) for some capacity category projects – all excluding the TIMED program projects.
- **Enhanced Funding Scenario** – assumes an increase in funding equivalent to a 5 cent per gallon increase in fuel tax (\$137.5 million of additional funds each year). It is assumed that approximately \$2.4 billion of the total additional \$3.7 billion generated by this funding scenario over 27 years would be used for implementation of Mega Projects, with the remaining \$1.3 billion used to increase funding for highway preservation. In addition, the \$120 million per year in existing funds presently used for Capacity projects would be reduced to \$72.5 million per year after 2010, with the remainder shifted to the Preservation and Safety.
- **Super Enhanced Funding Scenario** – assumes an additional \$150 million per year in federal highway funds, in addition to the Enhanced Funding noted above. This would result in a total of \$4.1 billion over 27 years. It was decided that \$0.68 billion (\$25 million/yr. x 27 yrs. = \$0.675 million) of these additional federal funds would be used for highway safety reconstruction projects, with the remaining \$3.4 billion used for construction of Mega Projects.
- **Non-Funded/Unmet Needs Scenario** – Mega Projects not funded by the Enhanced or Super Enhanced Funding Scenarios would be implemented only if additional special earmarked funds are received from federal or state funding sources. Examples included dedicated funds for portions of I-69 and I-49.

It was agreed that the Mega Projects that scored and ranked high in both the quantitative (travel demand model results) and qualitative (Plan goals and objectives) evaluation should be considered highest priority and included in the Enhanced Funding Budget scenario. These top ranked improvements, which include a total of 20 projects with an estimated construction cost of \$2.4 billion, are summarized in **Table 1**. Projects included in this scenario include all the interstate widening projects along I-10, I-20 and I-12, as well as I-49 North extension, LA 28 West (US 171 to Alexandria), LA 23 (Belle Chase) Tunnel, US 61 (Airline Highway), US 61 (St. Francisville), Almonaster Bridge, and Garrett Road widening in Monroe.

Table 1
Enhanced Funding Scenario - Mega Projects
Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan Update

Project ID	Area	Highway	Limits	Improvement Type	Total Cost (million)	Unfunded Cost (million)
LSTP – 001	Shreveport	I-49 North	I-220 to AR Line	New 4-lane Freeway	\$363	\$363
LSTP – 004	Lafourche Parish	LA 1 South	Port Fourchon to US 90 Phase 1, Bridge	Replace Bridge	\$125	\$115
LSTP – 005*	Houma	N-S Hurricane Route	LA 70 to LA 641	Build new 2 Lanes	\$150	\$150
LSTP – 011	Leesville/Alexandria	LA 28 West	US 171 to Alexandria	Widen 2 to 4 Lanes	\$80	\$40
LSTP – 020a	Shreveport	I-20	TX Line to Shreveport/Red River Bridge	Widen 4 to 6 Lanes	\$125	\$125
LSTP – 020b	Monroe	I-20	LA 546 to LA 594	Widen 4 to 6 Lanes	\$150	\$150
LSTP – 020c	Sulphur/Lake Charles	I-10	TX Line to Sulphur	Widen 4 to 6 Lanes	\$80	\$80
LSTP – 020d	Lake Charles	I-10	I-210W to Ryan St.	Widen 4 to 6 Lanes	\$200	\$200
LSTP – 020e	Lake Charles/Iowa	I-10	I-210E to US 165	Widen 4 to 6 Lanes	\$50	\$50
LSTP – 020f	Lafayette	I-10	LA 93 to Louisiana Ave.	Widen 4 to 6 Lanes	\$60	\$60
LSTP – 020g	Baton Rouge	I-10	I-110 – I-12	Widen 6 to 8 Lanes	\$250	\$250
LSTP – 020h	Baton Rouge	I-10	I-12 to LA 641	Widen 4 to 6 Lanes	\$250	\$210
LSTP – 020i	Baton Rouge	I-12	O'Neal to Denham Springs	Widen 4 to 6 Lanes	\$60	\$60
LSTP – 020j	New Orleans	I-10	Williams Blvd. to Causeway Blvd.	Widen 6 to 8 Lanes	\$85	\$0
LSTP – 020k	New Orleans	I-10	Bullard Ave. to Elysian Fields Ave.	Widen; implement ITS	\$185	\$185
LSTP – 028	New Orleans	LA 23	Belle Chase Tunnel	Build 4-Lane Bridge	\$50	\$50
LSTP – 031	St. Francisville	US 61	Thompson Creek to Baines	Widen 2 to 4 Lanes	\$40	\$20
LSTP – 034	Baton Rouge	US 61(Airline)	Gonzales to Coursey Blvd.	Widen 4 to 6 Lanes	\$40	\$40
LSTP – 039	Monroe	Garrett Rd.	I-20 to Kansas Lane	Widen 2 to 4 Lanes	\$25	\$25
LSTP – 047	New Orleans	I-10 Twin Span	US 11 to North Shore – Lake Pontchartrain	Widen 4 to 6 Lanes	\$100	\$100
LSTP – 035	New Orleans	Almonaster Br.		New Bridge	\$45	\$12
LSTP – 002a	I-49 Lafayette	I-49 South	Lafayette Urban	Upgrade to Freeway	\$350	\$350
TOTAL COST					\$2,863	\$2,635

* Magnitude of original proposed Mega Project modified or separated into two separate funding scenarios

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[Since the October 9, 2002 Regional Planning Officials Advisory Council meeting, DOTD Planning & Programming Administration has proposed adding LSTP-002a (I-49 Lafayette urban), LSTP-004 Phase 1 (La 1 South), and LSTP-005 (N-S Hurricane Route) to this budget scenario].

It was agreed that the Mega Projects that scored and ranked high in either the quantitative or qualitative evaluation (with some exceptions due to consideration of special and unique issues) should be included in the Super Enhanced Funding Budget scenario. The recommended improvements for this funding scenario, which include a total of 16 projects with an estimated construction cost of \$3.4 billion, are summarized in **Table 2**. Projects included in this scenario include the I-49 South extension in the rural areas, I-69 between US 171 and I-20, LA 1 South, Earhart Expressway, a new Ouachita River Bridge in Monroe, Bastrop Bypass, US 167 widening (Abbeville to Esther), Jimmie Davis Bridge widening in Shreveport/Bossier City, Port of Lake Charles Access Road, Pontchartrain Causeway (assuming all private sector funding), Port of South Louisiana Connector (LA 44 to Airline Highway), Peters Road widening/extension in New Orleans, US 190 widening in St. Tammany Parish, McArthur Drive freeway upgrade in Alexandria, and a North Baton Rouge Bypass.

The remaining Mega Projects not included in the Enhanced and Super Enhanced Funding Scenarios are shown in **Table 3**. These 28 projects with a total construction cost of \$7.84 billion could only be financed with special or dedicated/earmarked funds.

It was determined that the following projects should not be considered in the Plan Update due to their environmental impacts and non-feasibility:

- LSTP – 008b: South Baton Rouge Bypass (Miss. River Br. only included in Table 3)
- LSTP – 015: Larose-Lafitte Highway
- LSTP – 026: LA 1 (Relocated)
- LSTP – 029: Only the assumed Large Loop portion (new bridge remains)

The Council also strongly recommends development and implementation of a State Access Management Policy and State Traffic Impact Policy. Many of the RPO Council members indicated a strong interest in a Local Option Gas Tax for generation of additional funds for needed transportation improvements in urban areas. Representatives of the Regional Planning Commission (New Orleans Metropolitan Planning Organization) stated that a Local Option Gas Tax Coalition is being considered between urban areas and state legislators to encourage implementation of this extra gas tax. Consideration could be given to providing some of this extra gas tax funding for implementation of transportation improvements along state maintained highways in urban areas. There was some interest expressed in considering a long range planning process in rural areas similar to the process used in urban areas.

The preliminary highway recommendations agreed upon at this RPO Advisory Council meeting as well as improvements recommended by the other modal Advisory Councils established for the Statewide Plan Update will be presented to the Intermodal Council at their upcoming meetings for their consideration and recommendation to the LIIEP Commission. The LIIEP Commission will make the final determination regarding which projects and funding options that will be recommended in the Plan Update.

Table 2
Super Enhanced Funding Scenario - Mega Projects
Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan Update

Project ID	Area	Highway	Limits	Improvement Type	Total Cost (million)	Unfunded Cost (million)
LSTP – 002b	Lafayette/New Orleans	I-49 South	Lafayette to N.O. Rural	Upgrade to Freeway	\$865	\$865
LSTP – 003*	Shreveport	I-69	US 171 to I-20	New 4-Lane Freeway	\$380	\$380
LSTP – 004	Lafourche Parish	LA 1 South	Port Fourchon to US 90	Phase 2: Widen 2 to 4 Lanes	\$545	\$545
LSTP – 006*	New Orleans	LA 3139 (Earhart)	Each end exist. Earhart	Connect to Airline Hwy each end	\$125	\$125
LSTP – 012*	Monroe	New Ouachita River Bridge	Ouachita River in Monroe Metro area	New Bridge only	\$50	\$50
LSTP – 013	Bastrop	US 165/US 425 Bypass	US 425 to US 165	Build 4 Lanes	\$20	\$20
LSTP – 024	Abbeville/Esther	US 167	Abbeville to Esther	Build/Upgrade 0/2 to 4/2 Lanes	\$25	\$25
LSTP – 038	Shreveport/Bossier City	LA 511 (Jim. Davis Bridge)	70 th St. to Barksdale Blvd.	Replace 2 lane Bridge with 4 lane Bridge	\$50	\$50
LSTP – 040	Lake Charles	Port Access Rd.	Prien Lake Rd. to Marine St.	Build 4 Lanes	\$25	\$25
LSTP – 041**	New Orleans	Pontchartrain Causeway	US 190 to I-10	Widen 4 to 6 Lanes/Transit	\$425	\$425**
LSTP – 042*	LaPlace	Port of S. LA Connector	LA 44 to Airline Hwy.	Build 2 Lanes	\$10	\$10
LSTP – 043	New Orleans	LA 3017 (Peters Rd.)	Westbank Expwy. to LA 23	Widen/Build 2/0 to 3/2 Lanes	\$80	\$80
LSTP – 044	St. Tammany Parish	US 190	Pontchartrain Causeway to US 11	Widen 2 to 4 Lanes	\$100	\$75
LSTP – 049	Alexandria	McArthur Dr.	I-49N to I-49S	Upgrade to Freeway	\$60	\$60
LSTP – 041	Baton Rouge	North Bypass	I-10 to I-12	Build/Widen 0/2 to 4 Lanes	\$800	\$800
TOTAL COST					\$3,560	\$3,110

* Magnitude of original proposed Mega Project modified or separated in two separate funding scenarios.

** Cost of LSTP 041 not included in total cost. Assumed to be totally financed by Toll Authority funds.

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Table 3
Non-Funded/Unmet Needs Scenario - Mega Projects
Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan Update

Project ID	Area	Highway	Limits	Improvement Type	Total Cost (million)	Unfunded Cost (million)
LSTP – 002c	New Orleans	I-49 South	New Orleans Urban (I-310 to W. Bank Xprswy)	Upgrade to Freeway	\$750	\$750
LSTP – 003*	Shreveport	I-69	TX to I-49/I-20 to AR	Build 4-Lane Freeway	\$600	\$600
LSTP – 007	New Orleans	Florida Ave. Expressway	I-10 to LA 47	Build 6-Lane Freeway	\$350	\$350
LSTP – 8a	Baton Rouge	LA 1	LA 30	New Bridge	\$500	\$500
LSTP – 009	Alexandria/Bogalusa	Zachary Taylor Pkwy.	I-49 to I-59	Widen 2 to 4 Lanes	\$970	\$970
LSTP – 010	West Central LA	LA 6/US 84 El Camino	TX Line to Archie	Widening 2 to 4 Lanes	\$485	\$485
LSTP – 012	Monroe	Ouachita Loop	I-20 to I-20	Build 2 Lanes	\$245	\$245
LSTP – 014	NW Louisiana	US 371 (Bi-State Corridor)	LA 6 to AR Line	Widen 2 to 4 Lanes	\$295	\$295
LSTP – 016	NE Louisiana	US 65	LA 15 to AR Line	Widen 2 to 4 Lanes	\$225	\$225
LSTP – 017	SW Louisiana	US 190/LA 12	TX Line to Basile	Widen 2 to 4 Lanes	\$230	\$230
LSTP – 018	W Central Louisiana	LA 117	LA 8 to LA 6	Widen 2 to 4 Lanes	\$150	\$150
LSTP – 019	Rustin/Grambling	LA 149 & Tarbutton Rd. Interchange	LA 149 to LA 167	Interchange/Widen/Build	\$40	\$40
LSTP – 021	Monroe/Lake Charles	US 165	I-20 to I-10	Upgrade to Freeway	\$1,000	\$1,000
LSTP – 022	NW Louisiana	LA 1 (Tri-State Corridor)	US 71 to AR Line	Widen 2 to 4 Lanes	\$145	\$128
LSTP – 023	E Central Louisiana	US 84	Archie to Ferriday	Widen 2 to 4 Lanes	\$80	\$55
LSTP – 025	Baton Rouge	LA 408 (Hooper Rd.)	LA 37 to LA 16	Build 2-Lane	\$35	\$35
LSTP – 027	Houma	LA 30/40	Houma Tunnel	Build 4-Lane Bridge	\$50	\$50
LSTP – 029	New Orleans	Chalmette Bridge/I-510	MRGO to West bank	Extend Frwy; build new Bridge	\$1,000	\$1,000
LSTP – 030	Hammond	LA 3234 (University Ave.)	LA 1065 to Hammond Airport	Build 2-Lane	\$8	\$8
LSTP – 032	Natchitoches	East Bypass	LA 1 to LA 6	Build 2-Lane	\$20	\$20
LSTP – 033	Central Louisiana	LA 28 East	Alexandria to Archie	Widen 2 to 4 Lanes	\$85	\$79
LSTP – 037	N of Baton Rouge	LA 67 (Plank Rd)	Baker to Clinton	Widen 2 to 4 Lanes	\$70	\$70
LSTP – 042*	LaPlace	Port of South LA Connector	Airline Hwy. to I-10	Build 4 Lanes	\$25	\$25
LSTP – 045	Lafayette	Lafayette Beltway	I-10 to US 90	Build 4-Lane	\$300	\$300
LSTP – 046	W Baton Rouge Parish	I-10 – LA 1 Connector	I-10 to LA 1	Build 4-Lane	\$75	\$75
LSTP – 048a	Gonzales	Industrial Access Corridor	I-10 to LA 30	Build 4-Lane	\$35	\$35
LSTP – 048b	Gonzales	Industrial Access Corridor	LA 30 to LA 942	Build 4-Lane	\$35	\$35
LSTP – 050	New Orleans	Donner Rd.	Westbank Expwy. to Peters Rd.	Build 4-Lane	\$80	\$80
TOTAL COST					\$7,883	\$7,835

*Magnitude of original proposed Mega Project modified or divided in two separate funding scenarios.

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